



Appalachian Highlands Network Research and Education Program

Appalachian Highlands Research Grants 2006: Application deadline February 24, 2006

The Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been established to promote research partnerships between the Park Service and other research agencies and institutions. Several grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 will be awarded in 2006.

The mission of the National Park Service funded Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center is to increase the amount and effectiveness of research in the Appalachian Highlands Network parks that meet management needs while increasing public access to, understanding and appreciation of these research activities.

In 2006, these grants will be targeted to help the parks meet the following needs:

- » Attract New Research
- » Continue of On-going Research
- » During a Gap in Other Funding
- » Development of Research Needs List
- » Catalogue Specimen Backlog
- » Synthesis of Existing Research for Educational Programs
- » Cultural and Environmental History
- » Declining, Rare, Endangered and Sensitive Species
- » Plant Ecology
- » Ecosystem Monitoring
- » Landscape Ecology
- » Aquatic Ecology
- » Biotic Inventory
- » Archeaology

Ideally, these are to be seed grants to encourage scientists to conduct new research in one of the network parks.



Clockwise from top left: Big South Fork, Obed Wild and Scenic River, Purchase Knob (Great Smoky Mountains), and Blue Ridge Parkway.

We also encourage researchers to develop projects not identified above.

In addition to financial support, the Center may also provide **desk and lab space, GIS data, and housing** to researchers out of the facility at Purchase Knob for projects that are particularly relevant to park science needs.

Please visit www.nps.gov/grsm/pksite/ to learn more about existing projects and initiating a new project.

For further information or to submit a proposal (**must use four-page application form**) please contact:

Paul E. Super
Science Coordinator
paul_super@nps.gov

Susan Sachs
Education Coordinator
susan_sachs@nps.gov

Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center
P.O. Box 357
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
28-926-6251

Ranking Criteria (30 points total)

- Research will inform network management and conservation (10 pts)
- Sound methods (10 pts)
- Incorporates educational component (5 pts)
- Leverages other funds or in-kind costs (5 pts)

Grant recipients are encouraged to work with the education staff of the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center and the host park(s) to develop educational products or to identify volunteer field assistants.



Application Guidelines

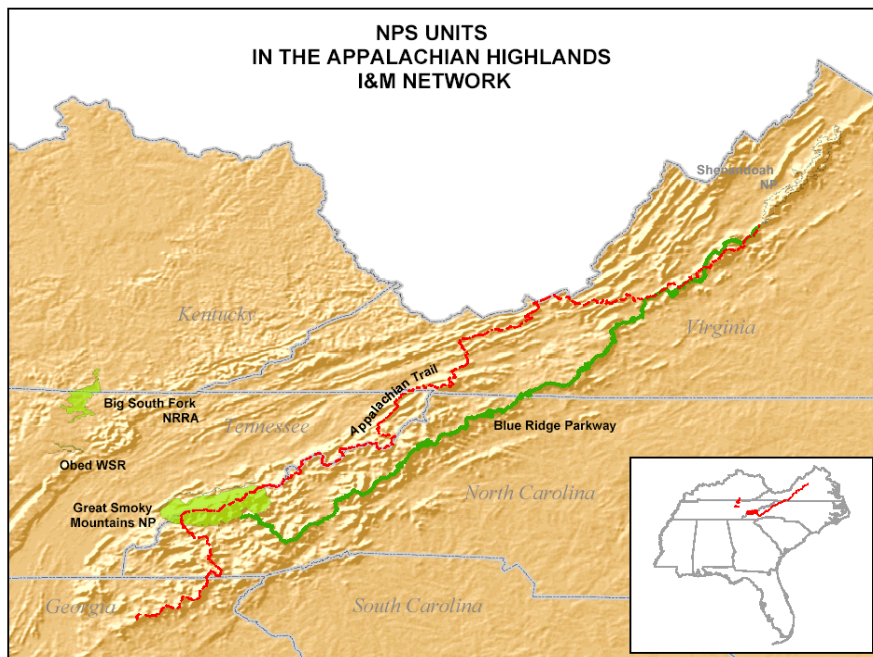
Priority will be given to projects of high research quality that support the Center's mission to understand and maintain the integrity of the mountain and plateau ecosystems in the Appalachian Highlands Network national parks. We encourage scientific research, public education and outreach leading to enhanced understanding and management of park resources through innovative partnering. All research must adhere to NPS rules and regulations, including permits.

Successful applicants will be encouraged to utilize park facilities available through the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob, when convenient. We also require that awardees provide us with a final written report by December 15, 2006, (or later by prior agreement) outlining work accomplished. Failure to provide this report will jeopardize access to future grants

Non-NPS researchers collecting data in the field will be requested to provide a copy of their data to the host park.

Grants will generally be paid in two installments directly to the researcher or appropriate park program. The first half of the funds will be paid when the grant is awarded and the second half will be paid after receipt of an acceptable report and any data agreed upon. Funds may not be used for indirect costs. Any equipment purchased remains the property of the National Park Service and the host park. Applicants must use the four-page application form associated with this RFP. Please type answers and print out form or submit via e-mail. **Copies of this RFP and application form are available from: paul_super@nps.gov**

Applications must be **received** by Paul Super (not postmarked) by **February 24, 2006**.



Appalachian Highlands Network National Park sites

The Appalachian Highlands Network of Parks includes: Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Blue Ridge Parkway, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the southern section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and Obed Wild and Scenic River.